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TEAM INDIA HEAD COACH SHASTRI TESTS COVID +VE

The BCCI announced on Sunday that Ravi Shastri's lateral flow test for Covid returned positive. The next course of action will be decided following the result of his RT-PCR test

3 OTHER SUPPORT STAFFERS IN ISOLATION

Bowling coach Bharat Arun, fielding coach R Sridhar and physiotherapist Nitin Patel remained at the team hotel as a precautionary measure with results of their RT-PCR tests awaited. All the other members underwent two lateral flow tests on Saturday night and Sunday morning before being cleared to travel to the stadium ahead of the fourth day of the 4th Test

KOHLI & CO SET ENGLAND A BIG TARGET

- The Indians set England an imposing target of 368 on Sunday after scoring 466 in their second innings | **P13**
- The likes of Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant and **Shardul Thakur** built on the good work of the top-order. Thakur (60) made his 2nd half-century of the match while Pant found his groove with 50

368

IF ENGLAND CHASE DOWN 368, IT WILL BE THEIR HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL CHASE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Govt allows public Ganesha celebration

Not more than 20 people allowed at a time at pandals; No celebration in border taluks with positivity rate of over 2%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State Government on Sunday announced that Ganesh Chaturthi festivities will be allowed for five days at public places with strict restrictions. While a gathering of more than 20 people at the same time is not allowed, the public celebration is prohibited in border taluks that have more than 2 per cent Covid positivity rate. No cultural programmes and processions will be allowed this time.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to discuss the Covid situation in the State on Sunday. After the meeting, Revenue Minister R Ashoka told reporters that the decision to allow public celebration of the festival was taken in consultation with members of the Technical Advisory Committee. "In urban areas, Ganesh pandals will be allowed one per ward and the local administration can decide on the numbers in rural areas. However, taluks that share borders with neighbouring states and have more than 2 per cent Covid positivity rate cannot allow public celebration," he added.

He said that cultural or entertainment programmes, like orchestra and DJ music, as part of the festival are strictly prohibited. "No processions will be allowed while bringing the Ganesh idol or immersing it. A provision will be made to erect pandals of 50x50 feet and organisers should ensure that not more than 20 people are at the pandal at a time and devotees should adhere to all Covid-appropriate behaviour. Permission is given to keep idols only for five days. The rules also apply for celebrations at apartments," he said.

Only eco-friendly idols will be sold and they must be immersed only at designated places like ponds identified by the local administration and mobile tanks. He stressed that celebrations should not be organised at schools and colleges.

CONTINUED ON: P2

With Ganesha Chaturthi just round the corner, Ganesha idols get finishing touches on RV Road in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR B

WHAT'S ALLOWED AND WHAT'S NOT
Only one pandal is allowed per ward in urban areas
No public celebration in border taluks with more than 2 per cent Covid positivity rate
Gathering of more than 20 devotees at a time is prohibited
Cultural and entertainment programmes as well as processions completely prohibited
Idols should be under 4 feet for public celebrations and 2 feet at homes
No celebrations in schools and colleges
Celebrations allowed only for five days, and must wind up before 9 pm
Organisers must carry Covid-negative report and get vaccinated

State records 8 deaths, lowest in second wave

Bengaluru: The state reported just eight Covid deaths on Sunday, the lowest since April 2 and 3 when six were reported dead on each of those days five months ago. Of the eight deaths, five are from Bengaluru, while the rest three are from Mysuru, Belagavi and Dakshina Kannada. However, despite the low deaths, the mortality rate has remained constant at 1.26 per cent for exactly a month and the positivity rate fell to 6.66 per cent. **P3**

NATIONWIDE	SEPT 04	SEPT 05
Fresh cases	42,618	42,766
Recoveries	36,385	38,091
Deaths	330	308

KARNATAKA	SEPT 04	SEPT 05
Fresh cases	983	1,117
Recoveries	1,620	1,354
Deaths	21	08

A section of the massive gathering at the kisan mahapanchayat at Muzaffarnagar on Sunday | PTI

Call by farm unions to defeat BJP in UP

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

FARMER unions on Sunday gave a call to uproot BJP governments from UP and Uttarakhand in the upcoming state elections early next year, at a massive mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar organised by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha.

The morcha, which is an umbrella body of 40 farmer unions, also decided to hold Bharat Bandh on September 27 in support of their primary demand to repeal three contentious farm laws passed by Parliament last year.

National spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, Rakesh Tikait, said, "We have to stop the country from getting sold. Farmers should be saved; the country should be saved; businesses, employees and youth should be saved. This is the mahapanchayat's aim."

Prominent among those on the dais were Yogendra Yadav, activist Medha Patkar and CPM leader Atul Anjan.

The humongous turnout could be a wake-up call for the ruling BJP as the mahapanchayat not only had the support of Jat khaps (clans) but also of some Muslim khaps of western UP. In the last three elections, the BJP did extremely well in western UP because of the Jat-Muslim polarisation following the Muzaffarnagar riots in 2013, with the saffron party mopping up the Jat votes. The Jat-Muslim animosity seems to be dissolving now in the wake of the farmers' unrest. Perhaps with that in mind, Tikait raised slogans of both *Allahu Akbar* and *Har Har Mahadev* from the dais. Western UP is important as it has around 130 of the 403 Assembly seats in the state.

BJP MP Varun Gandhi sought to reach out to the farmers, calling them "our own flesh and blood" and suggested that the government should re-engage with them to arrive at a common ground.

Tikait said the protest on Delhi's border and other sites would continue. BKU media incharge Dharmendra Malik claimed that farmers belonging to 300 outfits from various states attended the gathering.

Tying votes to fair price for farm produce

"This UP government should be given *vote ki chhot* (electoral defeat). The slogan of *fasal on ke daam nahi, to vote nahi* (no fair price for crops, no votes) will have to be raised," Tikait said, asking why the Adityanath government has not raised the sugarcane procurement price

8K security personnel

Around 8,000 security personnel were deployed. Security was tightened at the residences of local BJP lawmakers, including Union minister Sanjiv Balyan and BJP MLA Umesh Malik

SANGH DISTANCES ITSELF FROM CONTROVERSIAL REPORT ON INFY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) on Sunday distanced itself from an article that appeared in Panchjanya, a magazine associated with it, which questioned that whether an 'anti-national' conspiracy could be behind glitches on the income tax portal handled by IT major Infosys.

On Sunday, RSS spokesperson Sunil Ambekar tweeted that the views expressed in the piece are not of the organisation's but of the author's. The Sangh spokesperson also mentioned the contribution of Infosys in progress of the country.

"As an Indian company, Infosys has made seminal contribution in progress of the country. There might be certain issues with a portal run by Infosys, but the article published by Panchjanya in this context only reflects individual opinion of the author," Ambekar said. "Panchjanya is not mouthpiece of the RSS and the said article or opinions expressed in it should not be linked with the RSS."

The portal was in the news after difficulties faced by taxpayers in electronic filing of I-T returns. At a meeting with Infosys CEO Salil Parekh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had expressed disappointment on the issue of persistent glitches and set a September 15 deadline to fix all the glitches plaguing 'the current functionalities' of the new Income Tax filing portal.

In the Panchjanya's September 5 edition, the article said due to glitches in both the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and income tax return websites developed by Infosys, "taxpayers' trust in the country's economy has taken a hit. Is it that anti-national forces via Infosys are trying to hurt India's economic interests?"

MEDICOS IN MP TO STUDY ABOUT HINDUTVA ICONS

Bhopal: First-year medical students in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh will study the lives and works of RSS founder Dr KB Hedgewar, Bhartiya Jana Sangh leader Deendayal Upadhyaya, Swami Vivekananda and Dalit icon Dr BR Ambedkar as well as Maharshi Charaka and Sushruta among others in their Ethics course. **P10**

Nipah kills boy, adds to scare in Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kozhikode

NIPAH virus claimed the life of a 12-year-old boy from Kozhikode district on Sunday, marking the first such death in three years after it wreaked havoc in northern Kerala. The samples of the boy from Pazhoor in Chathamangalam tested positive for the infection at the National Institute of Virology, Pune.

By Sunday afternoon, authorities had traced 188 people on his contact list, of which two healthcare workers showed symptoms of the infection. As many as 20 people on the list, including the boy's parents, are in the high-risk category and have been shifted to the medical college. Health Minister Veena George said: "Seven days is the incubation period of the virus. Next week is crucial." Nipah is generally transmitted to humans from animals. Human-to-human transmission is also possible. It has a case fatality rate of 40-75%.

A team from the National Centre for Disease Control described the infection as a local occurrence and not an outbreak. Meanwhile, the NIV-Pune will set up a lab for initial screening at the medical college here on Monday. **P7**

EXPRESS READ

Former prez's grandson passes away at 66

Chennai: Keshav Desiraju, former Union Health Secretary and grandson of former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, whose birth anniversary is celebrated as Teachers Day, passed away in Chennai on Sunday. He was 66. Desiraju was an IAS officer from the 1978 batch of Uttarakhand cadre. **P7**

Restrictions eased in Kashmir, but forces stay

Srinagar: Restrictions were eased in Kashmir, but security forces continued to remain deployed on the fourth day on Sunday following the death of hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani. There are no restrictions on movement of people in the Valley, but barricades continue to remain.

48%

EXCISE COLLECTION JUMPS IN APR-JULY

The Centre's collections from levy of excise duty on petroleum products have jumped 48 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal, data from the Comptroller General of Accounts showed

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Bommai holds hush-hush meeting with Yediyurappa

DEVARAJ B NIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

JUST days after the BJP high command projected Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai as the face of the party for the 2023 Assembly polls, which reportedly has not gone down well with several leaders within the party, Bommai called on his 'guide' and predecessor BS Yediyurappa on Sunday morning.

Party sources said that the one-on-one, closed-door meeting was part of continuing efforts of Bommai to keep the senior leader in good humour, especially ahead of the legislature session beginning from September 13. This is to safeguard each others' interests on the floor of the House, as the opposition Congress is reportedly planning to raise the issue of several alleged scams during the Yediyurappa government, party sources said.

The meeting, dubbed as a courtesy call, lasted about 15 minutes at Yediyurappa's residence Cauvery.

Party workers felt that the hush-hush tête-a-tête could also be to discuss appointments to various boards and corporations. Bommai could not have gone ahead with this crucial decision without consulting Yediyurappa, they pointed out.

Bommai may have tried to draw from Yediyurappa's experience on handling the crucial zilla and taluk panchayat elections, which are the first litmus test for the new chief minister, they said.

Earlier in the day, at the inauguration of the government's flagship scheme – 'CM's Raitha Makkala Vidhyanidhi', which is aimed at helping children of farmers with financial aid for their education at the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha, Bommai termed Yediyurappa as the Karnataka BJP government's 'guide'.

"Apart from presenting a budget dedicated to the agriculture sector for the first time in the country, Yediyurappa implemented many pro-farmers schemes," Bommai said in his speech.

Last week during his visit to the State, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that Yediyurappa resigned on his own and picked Bommai as his successor. This effectively means that the high command has passed on the task of cajoling Yediyurappa to Bommai, a BJP leader said.

A file image of CM Basavaraj Bommai with his predecessor B S Yediyurappa | EXPRESS

Apart from presenting a budget dedicated to the agriculture sector for the first time in the country, Yediyurappa implemented many pro-farmers schemes

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

Para shuttlers help India sign off on a high

India finished the Tokyo Paralympics with their best tally ever – 19 medals (5 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze). The final day saw India win two more medals courtesy of the shuttlers to finish 24th in the overall standings.

SHUTTLER **KRISHNA NAGAR** WON GOLD IN THE MEN'S SINGLES SH6 CATEGORY AFTER BEATING HONG KONG'S MAN KAI CHU 21-17, 16-21, 21-17 IN THE FINAL ON SUNDAY.

Fellow shuttler **SUHAS YATHIRAJ** claimed a silver medal in the men's singles SL4 category. He lost to top seed Lucas Mazur of France 21-15, 17-21, 15-21 in the final. **P13**

Two shooters, Singhraj Adhana and Avani Lekhara, bagged two medals each. While Adhana won silver in the 50m pistol (SH1) event and bronze in the men's 10m air pistol (SH1) event, Avani won gold in the women's 10m air rifle (SH1) event and bronze in the 50m rifle 3 positions (SH1) event. In the process, Avani became the first Indian woman to claim two medals in a single Paralympics.

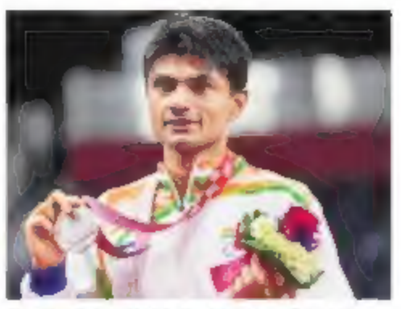
Silver-medallist T Mariyappan gets a grand welcome in Chennai on Sunday | EXPRESS

IAS officer Suhas a medal winner too

RAMACHANDRA V GUNARI @ Shivamogga

ON Sunday, Jayashree was a proud mother. Her son, para-shuttler Suhas Yathiraj, secured the silver medal in the men's singles SL4 class. As the feeling sunk in, she dialed her son, just to hear his voice and bless him. Yathiraj asked his mother, "Amma nanu hege adide? Gold baruba hudit-teno!" (How did I play, mother? I might have won gold!). The mood in the entire Yathiraj clan was understandable as other members of the family lined up to congratulate Karnataka-born Suhas, who has impairment in one of his ankles.

"We are all happy with his excellent performance and Suhas's dream of playing at Paralympics came true. We thought he could win gold. Anyway, he has brought laurels to India. We are happy that Prime Minister Modi spoke to him," Jayashree said of Suhas, who is the district magistrate at Gautam Buddh Nagar in Noida.



Shuttler Suhas Yathiraj with his medal at the Tokyo Paralympics on Sunday | PTI

What makes the achievement even more special is the way he allocated time for both his administrative duties and badminton in Noida. With Covid hitting India hard, his life was even more difficult as he had to manage the fight against the pandemic. After taking care of his duties as district magistrate, he practised regularly at night.

He started excelling in the sport after taking it up professionally in 2016. He clinched his first major gold medal at the Asian Championship in the same year in China. Thereon, he began to improve further and deliver at big meets, and his silver in Tokyo is his biggest highlight yet.

CONTINUED ON: P7